



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/663,119  | 09/12/2003  | Brian Mehler         | 106.11a             | 1839             |
| 7590  | 04/15/2004  |                      | EXAMINER            |                  |
| GRAY LAW FIRM<br>Suite 233<br>4401 N. Atlantic Avenue<br>Long Beach, CA 90807 |             |                      | WARD, JOHN A        |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 2875                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 04/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                               |                               |  |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No.<br>10/663,119 | Applicant(s)<br>MEHLER ET AL. |  |
|                              | Examiner<br>John A. Ward      | Art Unit<br>2875              |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 25-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 25-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. <u>0404</u> . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)                                |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipate by Hudak (US 5,353,205).

Regarding claim 1, Hudak ('205) discloses an earpiece light comprising of an ear support 102 attached to power supply housing 14, a power supply 18, a lamp arm 60, and a light source 30 located at the distal end of the lamp arm (figure 1).

Regarding claim 2, Hudak figure 8 shows how the lamp arm is pivotally attached to the power supply housing.

Regarding claim 3, Hudak figure 8 shows how the lamp arm is extendible.

Regarding claim 4, Hudak shows a dimmer control 74.

Regarding claim 5, Hudak shows a switch 19.

Claims 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Upah (US 5,951,158).

Regarding claim 25, Upah discloses in figures 1-3, an earpiece light comprising of a curve ear support 12, attached to a power supply housing 16, having a power

Art Unit: 2875

supply 30, a lamp arm 34, with a distal end 36, and the light emitted from a light source 26 is emitted in the distal end 36.

Regarding claim 26, Upah discloses in figure 3, the power supply housing 16 is detachable from the curve support.

Regarding claim 27, Upah discloses in figures 1-3 the lamp arm is extendible.

### ***Double Patenting***

Claims 25-29 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3 and 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,637,910. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because See chart below.

| Instant application | Prior art ('910) | Differences   |
|---------------------|------------------|---|
| 25                  | 1                | Claim limitation is incorporated in claim 1 of the prior art. |
| 26                  | 1                | Claim limitation is incorporated in claim 1 of the prior art. |
| 27                  | 3                | Claim reads the same as the prior art.                        |
| 28                  | 1                | Claim limitation is incorporated in claim 1 of the prior art. |
| 29                  | 12               | Claim reads the same as the prior art.                        |

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John A. Ward whose telephone number is 571-272-2386. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571-272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JAW  
April 9, 2004



John A. Ward  
Patent Examiner AU 2875